

**Air and Space Operations Center (AOC)  
Lead System Integrator (LSI)  
Advisory Multi-Step (AMS)  
Sources Sought Synopsis (SSS)**

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**Introduction:** The AMS process (See FAR Part 15.202) will help identify the viable competitors to become the AOC LSI. The government team intends to use the AMS to: assist potential teaming arrangements for companies that are not considered viable competitors, guide industry Bid and Proposal expenditure decisions, and to limit participation for certain events at future AOC LSI Industry Days/Bidders Conferences (e.g. one-on-ones, focused review of Sections L and M, ...). The next scheduled AOC LSI Industry Day will have a general session open to all interested industry parties; focus and one-on-one sessions will be limited to viable competitors. Industry feedback or questions are welcomed at any time.

**Background:** Delivering an AOC Weapon System (WS) requires the careful balancing of many competing interests, some of which are under direct control of the AOC WS System Program Office (SPO), and some which are not. Regardless, the AOC WS SPO must deliver AOCs throughout the world which offer valued functionality, balance timeliness of delivery and suitability, respond to the unique needs of local missions and processes, adapt quickly to new needs and new missions, and provide insight into all resident functionality, applications, etc. to allow careful husbanding and management of the AOC WS.

Industry Day #3 from 14 – 16 Jan 04 presented the schedule and outline for the SSS. Objectives expected from the AOC LSI are indicated in the following:

- Concept Papers #2 and #5 (HERBB)
- Draft Statement of Objectives (SOO) posted 9 Jan 04 (HERBB)
- Slides from Day 3 of Industry Day #3 (Bidder's Library only)

**Format:** The Government is soliciting responses to the questions identified below, and requests that only companies interested in being the LSI Prime contractor should submit white papers. Bidders are encouraged to integrate contributions from any team members into their overall response. Any industry participant may submit white papers to the government at any time. The AMS schedule is outlined below and AMS SSS questions (follow later in this document).

- |                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Release Sources Sought Synopsis | 29 Jan          |
| • Contractors White papers due    | 13 Feb          |
| • Evaluate White Papers           | 17 Feb – 10 Mar |
| • Draft questions                 | 11 Mar          |
| • Post Questions to Bidders       | 12 Mar          |
| • Bidders Responses due           | 18 Mar          |
| • Assess Responses to Questions   | 25 Mar          |
| • Debrief Bidders                 | 29 Mar – 2 Apr  |
| • Post List of Viable Competitors | 5 Apr           |

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White Papers shall be submitted in the following format:

- Microsoft Word 1998 or higher
- Shall not exceed 25, one-sided, 8.5 X 11 inch pages
- Font no smaller than 12 point
- Executive Summary, not to exceed 3 pages highlighting overall approach to include potential teaming relationships and small-business inclusion strategy shall be included with the submittal
- The 25 page limitation does not include the : Title Page, Table of Contents, List of Figures, List of Tables, and Executive Summary
- The paper should be structured as follows:
  - Title page
  - Table of Contents
  - List of Figures
  - List of Tables
  - Executive Summary
  - Response to 6 Questions following the order presented in this paper
- Note: The Executive Summary and all pages exceeding the 25-page count will not be evaluated.

Bidders' responses to Government issued questions shall be submitted electronically, no later than 4:00 p.m. EST, 13 Feb 04 to Capt Brian Heaps ([brian.heaps@hanscom.af.mil](mailto:brian.heaps@hanscom.af.mil)) or Ms. Ellen McDonnell ([ellen.mcdonnell@hanscom.af.mil](mailto:ellen.mcdonnell@hanscom.af.mil)). Debriefings will be conducted at Hanscom AFB MA, and the Government requests that at least one senior member from each bidder's company/team attend.

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**Questions:** The Government will assess bidders' strengths and weaknesses in the following areas: comprehension of AOC WS, innovation of concepts/techniques to manage the AOC WS, integration approach for the AOC WS and application of system engineering process. The government will indicate whether the bidder is viable based on responses to the following questions:

- 1) Describe the top three challenges facing the AOC WS that you as the LSI could help mitigate. For each challenge, identify reasons the challenge exists, provide rationale for selecting the challenge as well as a mitigation strategy. What corporate experience will you provide to overcome these challenges? What experience will you draw from your partners (subcontractors, other divisions, etc). Identify any limitations (programmatic, technical, cost, etc.) that may prevent you, as the LSI, from implementing your recommended strategy successfully.
- 2) Describe your experience relative to the integration and testing of complex systems (see concept papers #4, dated 18 Sep 03, and #6, dated 29 Jan 04, on the HERRB) in diverse environments using a spiral development approach. Using this past experience, describe the three toughest integration obstacles (not identified in question #1) for the AOC WS and propose remedies for each. How would you measure success or failure, and are there early indicators that can be used to feed into your remedies?
- 3) How does your systems engineering and management processes address the AOC's challenges and obstacles you addressed earlier in #1 and #2? How do these processes provide the robust, adaptable environment necessary to enhance cross node (i.e., DCGS, JSTARS, AWACS, MC2A, etc.) integration for the AOC. How do these processes accommodate the technology and implementation issues for dealing with information at multiple security levels? Explain.
- 4) A developers' assistance and integration environment will be a key aspect for the LSI (refer to Paragraph 3 of the 9 Jan 04 SOO). Describe your approach for both establishing and managing this environment. Identify and describe the environment's essential characteristics. How would you motivate third party developers, many of whom you will not have contractual authority over, to use the environment for future AOC WS technologies, applications, and capabilities? What would be the mechanism for interaction with those parties?
- 5) What do you believe will be the key skill sets and core-competencies required to perform as the AOC LSI? Elaborate on all proposed team members' contributing strengths in these areas.
- 6) Based upon your answer to #5 above, describe your proposed team's ability to field and sustain large complex systems in diverse environments.

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The list of viable competitors will be posted to HERBB at the completion of all debriefings.

**NOTE:** STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE VIABLE COMPETITOR LIST.

Questions/comments must be submitted via e-mail to Capt Brian Heaps ([brian.heaps@hanscom.af.mil](mailto:brian.heaps@hanscom.af.mil)) or Ms. Ellen McDonnell ([ellen.mcdonnell@hanscom.af.mil](mailto:ellen.mcdonnell@hanscom.af.mil)).

Additional program information can be obtained at [www.herbb.hanscom.af.mil](http://www.herbb.hanscom.af.mil). Please direct any questions on this announcement to Captain Brian Heaps, Contracting Officer, (781) 271-3109, or Ellen McDonnell, Contracts Specialist (781) 271-3686.